

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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DRC-01 /152 W

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R 201530Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3966

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0458

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER MEETS CRC OPPOSITION MEMBERS

REF: CAPE TOWN 0383

SUMMARY: CRC OPPOSITION DELEGATION, HEADED BY LABOR PARTY LEADER LEON, MET WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER ON AUGUST 19. MEETING, HELD AT LEON'S REQUEST, WAS FOR PURPOSE OF PUTTING BEFORE PRIME MINISTER LABOR PARTY'S CONTENTION THAT COLORED COMMUNITY HAD REJECTED SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT AND DEMAND THAT COLORED BE GRANTED FULL RIGHT OF CITIZENSHIP. PRIME MINISTER DID NOT ACCEPT LEON'S ARGUMENT AND SAID HE COULD NOT GRANT PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION TO COLOREDS. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO A FURTHER MEETING THAT WOULD INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF FEDERAL PARTY. IN COMMENTING ON MEETING LEON SAID IT HAD BEEN USEFUL BECAUSE IT SERVED TO DRAMATIZE AND PUBLICIZE FEELINGS OF COLORED COMMUNITY. HE SAID HIS PLANS WERE TO TURN NEXT GENERAL ELECTION FOR CRC INTO A REFERENDUM ON MATTER. END SUMMARY/  
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1. PRIME MINISTER VORSTER MET FOR FOUR HOURS ON THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 19 WITH MEMBERS OF OPPOSITION PARTIES OF THE COLOURED PERSONS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (CRC). MEETING WAS IN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FROM LABOR PARTY LEADER SONNY LEON FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION AND PROLOGUING OF CRC (REFTEL). COLORED 10-MAN DELEGATION INCLUDED SEVEN LABOR PARTY MEMBERS AND THREE "INDEPENDENTS" (ADAMS, ESSOP AND ROOKS).

2. LEON'S PURPOSE IN REQUESTING MEETING - THE FIRST FORMAL ONE BETWEEN CRC OPPOSITION AND PRIME MINISTER - WAS TO PLACE BEFORE PRIME MINISTER LABOR PARTY'S CONTENTION THAT COLORED COMMUNITY HAD REJECTED SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT AND CRC, AND WANTED RIGHTS OF FULL CITIZENSHIP INCLUDING PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION. PRIME MINISTER HELD POSITION THAT HE HAD NO AUTHORITY TO ABOLISH CRF (WHICH WOULD ALSO BE AGAINST GOVERNMENT POLICY) AND THAT GRANTING PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION TO COLOREDS WOULD LEAD TO FRICTION. (HE SUPPORTED MINISTER INTERIOR MULDER'S NEGATIVE STATEMENT - PARA 3, CAPE TOWN 0363 - AS REPRESENTING GOVERNMENT POLICY.) THE BEST HE COULD OFFER, ACCORDING TO LEON, WAS PROMISE OF "PERFECTING" CRC AND ESTABLISHING AT SOME TIME IN FUTURE SOME NON-DEFINED "STATUTORY LINK" BETWEEN CRC AND PARLIAMENT THAT WOULD BE SUPERIOR TO BOTH BODIES. PRIME MINISTER TOLD LEON HE HAD NO ASSURANCE THAT NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE IN CRC ACCURATELY REFLECTED OPINION OF COLORED COMMUNITY. HE INFORMED LEON'S DELEGATION THAT CRC WOULD BE RECALLED IN NOVEMBER AND GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR A NEW CRC WOULD BE HELD IN MARCH 1975. BOTH PARTIES AGREED TO HAVE A SECOND MEETING SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE WHICH OTHER CRC ELEMENTS, INCLUDING FEDERAL PARTY, WOULD ATTEND.

3. IN HIS PREPARED STATEMENT TO PRIME MINISTER LEON DECLARED "WE CANNOT ANY LONGER TOLERATE BEING SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS" AND ASKED IF COLORED PEOPLE WERE TO "REMAIN UNTIL THE END OF TIME NON-PERSONS IN THE LAND OF OUR BIRTH". IF THEIR DEMANDS WERE REFUSED, LEON WARNED, THE "TASK OF CONTAINING OUR PEOPLE" WOULD BE A DIFFICULT ONE BECAUSE THEIR PATIENCE HAD RUN OUT.

4. IN LATER CONVERSATION WITH REPORTING OFFICER LEON SAID THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HE CONSIDERED AUGUST 19 MEETING TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL DESPITE ITS INCONCLUSIVE NATURE, BECAUSE IT PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR LABOR PARTY TO PUT COLORED PEOPLE FORCEFULLY BEFORE PRIME MINISTER AND, THANKS TO GOOD PUBLICITY RECEIVED, TO THE PUBLIC. HE SAID THAT THROUGHOUT MEETING PRIME MINISTER TOOK INFLEXIBLE ATTITUDE AND REFUSED TO CONCEDE ANY FLAW IN GOVERNMENT'S COLORED POLICY YET UNABLE TO DEFINE FUTURE OF THIS POLICY WITH ANY PRECISION. (AT ONE POINT, LEON SAID, MINISTER OF

COLOURED AFFAIRS VAN DER MERWE, ADMITTED THAT LEON'S ARGUMENT WAS NORMALLY RIGHT BUT POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE.)

5. NOTING THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD MET EARLIER DURING DAY WITH PRIME MINISTER SMITH OF RHODESIA, LEON ASKED IF EVENTS TO NORTH ON SOUTH AFRICA HAD NOT CONVINCED PRIME MINISTER OF NEED TO WORK OUT ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO COLORED SITUATION. ACCORDING TO LEON, PRIME MINISTER RESPONDED SIMPLY THAT HE WAS CONCERNED WITH W'S#SECURITY.

6. LEON TOLD REPORTING OFFICER THAT LABOR PARTY INTENDED MAKING MARCH ELECTIONS A REFERENDUM ON QUESTION OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT OPINION AMONG COLOREDS HAD SHIFTED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE LAST CRC GENERAL ELECTION, BUT SAID HE DID NOT UNDERESTIMATE ABILITY OF GOVERNMENT TO USE ITS SUPERIOR RESOURCES TO "PROVE" HIM WRONG.

7. LEON ALSO SAID THAT HE BELIEVES PRIME MINISTER WOULD HOPE, AT SECOND MEETING WITH EXPANDED LIST OF CRC LEADERS, TO USE FEDERAL PARTY SPOKESMEN TO COUNTER LABOR PARTY'S ARGUMENTS. HOWEVER, LEON MAINTAINED, FOR FEDERAL PARTY LEADER COULD NOW ARGUE FOR SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT AND THEN SUCCESSFULLY FACE ELECTORATE. GAMON

NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED.

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